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Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 91 to 137 and add new claims 138 to 152.

138. A humanized antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, that specifically binds human IL-1 β , selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:60 and a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:55;

(b) a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:61 and a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:56;

(c) a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:62 and a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:57;

(d) a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:63 and a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:58; and,

(e) a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:64 and a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:59;

139. A humanized antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, that specifically binds human IL-1 β , comprising a light chain and a heavy chain selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a light chain comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:46 and a heavy chain comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45;

(b) a light chain comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:47 and a heavy chain comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 48

(c) a light chain comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:48 and a heavy chain comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:68;

(d) a light chain comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:49 and a heavy chain comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:50;

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(e) a light chain comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:51 and a heavy chain comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 52; and,

(f) a light chain comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:53 and a heavy chain comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:54.

140. A humanized antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, that specifically binds human IL-1 β , wherein said antibody has a light chain of SEQ ID NO: 48 and a heavy chain of SEQ ID NO:68.

141. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 138.

142. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 141.

143. A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 142.

144. A process for producing an antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 143 and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide from the culture.

145. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof of Claim 138.

146. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 138.

147. An isolated nucleic acid, comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 139.

148. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 147.

149. A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 148.